

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8810

UNCLAS HONG KONG 0768

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, HK

SUBJECT: CLASSIFICATION OF MAN-MADE FIBER OVES

REF: 75 STATE 287834

WE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM DCI IN RESPONSE TO MESSAGE RELAYED AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL.

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 31 DECEMBER 1975 REGARDING THE CLASSIFICATION OF MAN-MADE FIBRE GLOVES.

"WE HAVE NOTED THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY YOUR AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON THAT ALL MAN-MADE FIBRE GLOVES, WHETHER KNIT OR WOVEN, SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED IN CATEGORY 214 AND THE 'CORRELATION SPECIFICALLY LISTS WOVEN GLOVES IN CATEGORY 214'. WE PRESUME THAT BY 'CORRELATION' YOUR AUTHORITIES MEAN THE US PUBLICATION ENTITLED 'CORRELATION: TEXTILE AND APPAREL CATEGORIES BY TARIFF SCHEDULES OF THE UNITED STATES ANNOTATED.'

"I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD PUT THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO YOUR AUTHORITIES IN REPLY:-

"(A) THE HONG KONG CLASSIFICATION PRACTICE WHEREBY WOVEN MAN-MADE FIBRE GLOVES ARE CLASSIFIED IN CATEGORY 240 IS STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SYSTEM OF CATEGORIES SET OUT IN ANNEX A OF THE TEXTILES AGREEMENT OF 25 JULY 1974 BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UNITED STATES.

"(B) ANNEX A OF THE AGREEMENT DESCRIBES CATEGORY 214 AS 'GLOVES AND MITTENS, KNIT, WHETHER OR NOT ORNAMENTED' AND SINCE THERE IS NO CORRESPONDING CATEGORY FOR WOVEN MAN-MADE FIBRE GLOVES, IT FOLLOWS THAT THE APPROPRIATE CATEGORY FOR SUCH GLOVES IS CATEGORY 240 - 'OTHER WEARING APPAREL, NOT KNIT, WHETHER OR NOT ORNAMANTED'.

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"(C) PERHAPS THE TITLE OF CATEGORY 214 IN THE 'CORRELA-

TION' IS INDEED A MISTAKE BUT I AM CONFIDENT YOUR
AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE THAT HONG KONG IS UNDER NO
OBLIGATION TO FOLLOW THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM SET
OUT IN THE 'CORRELATION'.

"(D) THE MANNER IN WHICH HONG KONG CLASSIFIES WOVEN
MAN-MADE FIBRE GLOVES IS ONE OF LONG STANDING,
HAVING ITS ORIGINS IN THE FORMER US/HONG KONG MAN-MADE
FIBRE AND WOLL TEXTILES AGREEMENT OF 6 JANUARY 1972
WHICH ALSO DESCRIBED CATEGORY 214 AS 'GLOVES AND MITTENS,
KNIT, WHETHER OR NOT ORNAMENTED', AND WAS OUTLINED IN
THE FIRST MONTHLY SHIPMENT RETURN FOR OCTOBER 1971 MADE
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THAT AGREEMENT; OUR LETTER (5)
IN EIC 111/10/58 OF 27 JANUARY 1972 TO MR. R. HOWARTH
REFERS. HONG KONG THEREFORE SEES NO REASON TO CHANGE
ITS PRACTICE NOW, PARTICULARLY AS TO DO SO WOULD
NECESSITATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CURRENT AGREEMENT.

"(E) HONG KONG IS OF COURSE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO
CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US ON THE MATTER BUT FEELS THAT
AS THE PRESENT VOLUME OF TRADE IN WOVEN MAN-MADE FIBRE
GLOVES IS NOT SIGNIFICANT, THERE IS NO NECESSITY FOR
CONSULTATIONS AT PRESENT; AND THAT THE MATTER IS PERHAPS
MORE APPROPRIATELY A SUBJECT FOR CONSIDERATION EITHER
AT AN ANNUAL CONSULTATION UNDER PARAGRAPH 12 OF THE
CURRENT US/HONG KONG TEXTILES AGREEMENT, OR AT ANY
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE CURRENT AGREEMENT,
ASSUMING THAT THE US AUTHORITIES STILL WISH TO REFER
TO IS.

SINCERELY,

A. L. PURVES"

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